

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Larry Schoonover	Art Unit :	2125
Serial No. :	10/777,437	Examiner :	Michael Masinick
Filed :	February 12, 2004	Confirmation No.:	4781
		Notice of Allowance Date:	March 17, 2006
Title :	METHOD, SYSTEM AND STORAGE MEDIUM FOR PERFORMING ONLINE VALVE DIAGNOSTICS		

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant recognizes that in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, the Examiner's reasons for allowance need not set forth all of the details as to why claims are allowable. Thus, Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance in the instant application are the only reasons for which the claims are allowable. In particular, Applicant does not concede that the diagnostics being "performed at the same time as the valve operates in a plant process" is necessary to distinguish the prior art of record or to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The claims may also be patentable for other reasons, and Applicant rejects any reading of the claims that deviates from the limitations explicitly recited therein. In addition, dependent claims 2-12 are allowable on their own merits and, moreover, on the basis of a sub-combination of the recited features of the dependent claims and their respective base claims.

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Attorney Docket No.: 15826-222001/MN-eTech-001

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 06/19/2006

/William R. Borchers/

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